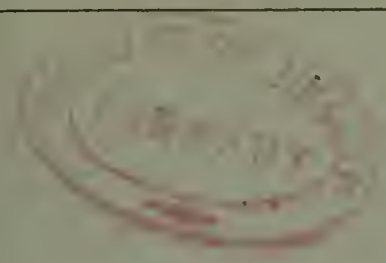


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Urban District Council

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT
1937**

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BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Medical Officer's Annual Report

For 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Burnham-on-Sea
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1937, ending December, 31st.

Area=2,246 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937=7,764.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books
=2,279

Rateable Value=£64,140.

Sum Represented by a penny rate=£241.

Chief industries carried on in the area: Brick and Tile Making,
Bacon Factory, Creamery, Timber Yard, Laundry, Seasonable
unloading of Timber Boats.

Extent of Unemployment=10.4%

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F	
Live Births	Legitimate	97	49	48	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population=13.5
	Illegitimate	8	5	3	
Still Births	Legitimate	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births=14.0
	Illegitimate	Nil			
Deaths	...	108	46	62	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population =13.9

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)
No. 29. Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year or age:—

	M	F
All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	5	2 = .9 per 1,000
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	3	2 = .6 per 1,000
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	2	0 = .2 per 1,000
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	5	9
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	Nil	
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil	

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(i) Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health (part-time): A. R. Wade, L.M.S.S.A.
(Lond.), Highbridge, Somerset.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor: W. H. Chowins, C.R.S.I.
Assistant.

Nursing :—Run by District Nurses, two in Burnham-on-Sea and one in Highbridge Ward.

(ii) (a) Laboratory facilities—no further developments or changes.

(b) Ambulance facilities—An Ambulance, under the formation of St. John Ambulance, has been formed in the Highbridge Ward. Ambulances are also got from Weston-super-Mare when necessary and also from the Isolation Hospital at Cross, Somerset.

(c) Nursing in the home—carried on by the District Nurses.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics—Patients sent to Weston-super-Mare and Bridgwater Clinics.

(e) Hospitals—Burnham-on-Sea, Weston-super-Mare, Bridgwater, Bristol, and Isolation at Cross.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) WATER.

In December, the borehole at Winscombe was reconditioned, perforated steel lining being carried to the bottom.

Proposed Schemes—Duplication of Winscombe borehole, with additional pumping plant. A tender has been accepted and started for the sinking of a borehole.

Ministry of Health Inquiries—Waterworks Inquiry 25th July, 1937. The Council applied for a loan of £2,050 for the borehole mentioned above and also for incidental works; Ministry of Health granted £1,200.

The supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality; (b) in quantity, The latter occasionally being short. The Highbridge Ward derive their water from Axbridge, but it is hoped that in due course all the water will be got for Burnham and Highbridge Wards from one source.

The water is controlled by bacteriological examination once a month and at present once a fortnight, the examination being satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No important particulars of extension of sewerage, but it is hoped to improve some sewerage arrangements in due course in both Wards of the Burnham Urban District.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Brue has still sewerage passing into it, but so far have not had any complaints, but the old bed of the river, which is now a stagnant marsh except at high water in the very wet seasons, is a perfect nuisance, and nothing seems to be done about the nuisance owing to different ownership. This nuisance has been going on for years and nothing done.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

All closets, water flushing cisterns.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Satisfactory refuse collection and incinerator.
The few cess pools satisfactory.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

(iv) SHOPS.

No action needed or taken.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action taken.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Marine Lake, cleaned out, as far as possible, annually.
No privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action called for or complained of.

4. SCHOOLS.

The Church School in Burnham, and the Infants' Schools (County) in Burnham and Highbridge Wards satisfactory.

The Church School in the Highbridge Ward.—The School playground is still a source of danger to the children, and the washing arrangements and lavatory accommodation are all out of date and in bad repair.

Memorandum on closure and exclusion from School.—Weekly reports sent to the County M.O.H. of absent children by the Urban District M.O.H., which are sent him by the School masters and mistresses.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK.

Samples sent frequently to laboratory for bacteriological examination, and farms and dairies periodically inspected.

(b) MEAT.

Inspected periodically and also slaughterhouses, and any complaints attended to.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

		Cows	Pigs
Number inspected	... ..	2	1
Whole carcasses condemned, tuberculosis only		2	1

(c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—Work carried out at County laboratory.

(e) NUTRITION.—No action taken.

(f) SHELL-FISH.—No action action.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	44
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	53
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	18

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	5
Repairs in hand at 11	

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices— | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | | | Nil |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | Nil |

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | ... | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 1 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 1 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 6 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 1 |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 2 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 12½ |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report | Nil |

Prevalence of Notifiable Diseases.

The year has been a satisfactory one as far as infectious diseases, there being no epidemic.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is obtained from the M.O.H.

Isolation Hospital—The best use is made of the hospital, and the period of Scarlet Fever cases stay is shortened. At the present time most cases wish to go to isolation and few are nursed at home.

Artificial immunization against diphtheria.—No action taken except privately and in schools.

Prevention of blindness.—Cases sent to hospital.

Tuberculosis.—No people employed in milk trades. No compulsory removal to hospital of tuberculous patients.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

DISEASE			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3	3	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	3	3	Nil
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)			—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	3	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	3	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable			—	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally			—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	2	—	1	1	—	—

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. WADE, M.O.H.

PUBLIC OFFICES,

BURNHAM-ON-SEA.

12th May, 1938.

To the Medical Officer of Health, Burnham-on-Sea Urban District Council.

Sir,

Hereunder I submit my report of Sanitary Work for the year ended 31st December, 1937, in respect of both Highbridge and Burnham Wards.

Housing.

24 new houses were completed during the year.

At the end of the year 9 houses were in the course of erection.

18 dwelling houses have been inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts. One basement dwelling which was unfit for human habitation was closed. Four dwellings were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and three were remedied as a result of informal action. The other was remedied after service of a formal notice.

Drainage.

All drains and fittings to new houses, and all systems repaired and relaid were tested before being covered in.

Infectious Diseases.

Disinfection after cases of Infectious Diseases has been carried out in 12 premises.

Nuisances.

4 informal notices to abate nuisances were issued during the year, these being for the cleansing of ditches and for smoke abatement. Two of these were complied with. One formal notice has been served and this has been complied with.

Slaughter-houses.

There are 7 licensed and 2 registered Slaughter-houses, and these have been kept in satisfactory condition, having been inspected periodically.

One pig's carcass and two bullocks' carcasses have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed by incineration.

Milk.

There are 26 Retail Purveyors and 26 Cowkeepers on the Register.

6 Licences have been issued for the sale of Grade "A" (T.T.), 1 Licence for Pasteurised, and 1 Licence for the sale of Accredited Milk.

One sample of Accredited Milk and 3 herd samples were taken and sent for analysis and all showed satisfactory results.

Bakehouses and Workshops.

There are 15 Bakehouses on the Register and these have been kept in satisfactory condition during the year.

There are 52 Workshops and 7 Factories now on the Register.

Cowsheds.

7 Cowsheds and one Milk Shop have been inspected and found satisfactory.

Fish Shops.

5 Fish Shops have been examined during the year and found satisfactory.

Fried Fish Shops.

4 Fried Fish Shops have been examined during the year and found satisfactory.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Wm. H. CHOWINS, Cert. R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

